

**Remarks/Arguments**

The claims have been amended to remove reference to the second satellite and to emphasize the scope of the invention being that the transmission of the uplink signal is conditioned on the simultaneous reception and frequency locking of a received signal. Reference to the second satellite is superfluous to the operation of the invention and serves only to make the claims excessively verbose.

**35 U.S.C. §103**

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-14, 16, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Saunder in view of Godwin.

It is submitted that neither Saunders nor Godwin teach or suggest an outdoor unit for a satellite television ground system which provides

"uplink circuitry operative to receive an uplink signal from the indoor unit, process the received uplink signal, and transmit the processed uplink signal to the satellite only when said downlink circuitry is simultaneously receiving said satellite television signal from said satellite and is frequency locked to said satellite television signal from said satellite."

as recited by the present claim 1.

The present invention, as recited by claim 1, teaches a system which may simultaneously receive and transmit signals to and from a satellite. The invention conditions the transmission of a satellite signal with the simultaneous reception of a signal from the same satellite. The invention confirms the simultaneous reception of a signal from the satellite with a frequency lock condition on the receiving circuitry. The intent of this invention is to confirm that a satellite antenna is actually tracking a satellite before transmitting a signal.

It is submitted that Saunders does not teach or suggest an outdoor unit for a satellite television ground system which transmits "the processed uplink signal to the satellite only when said downlink circuitry is simultaneously receiving said satellite television signal

from said satellite and is frequency locked to said satellite television signal from said satellite." as recited by the present claim 1. It is submitted that Sanders teaches a system wherein a symbol transmit rate is extracted from a downstream signal and then used for the upstream transmission. Specifically, Saunders teaches a system wherein "before transmitting, the user terminal monitors a downlink beach broadcast by the satellite to acquire initial timing information." (Col. 2, lines 52-57) This initial timing information is then used to generate a common symbol transmit rate for the uplink data in the uplink channel. (Col. 6, lines 6-9) Only after the common symbol transmit rate is established, the system of Saunders is ready to transmit the uplink channels to the satellite. Saunders does not teach or suggest that the uplink signal is conditioned on the simultaneous reception and frequency locking of a downstream signal as taught by the present invention as recited in claim 1.

It is submitted that Godwin does not teach or suggest a bidirectional system and therefore does not teach or suggest that the uplink signal is transmitted only when the downlink circuitry is frequency locked as taught by the present invention.

It is submitted therefore claim 1 is allowable over the combination of Saunders and Godwin and such action is respectfully requested. Furthermore, it is submitted that independent claims 6 and 11 are allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable and such action is respectfully requested. Since dependant claims 2-5, 7-10, and 12-17 are dependant from allowable independent claims, it is submitted that they too are allowable for at least the same reasons and such action is respectfully requested.

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's representative at (609) 734-6804, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

Ser. No.10/084,773  
Amdt. dated March 21, 2007  
Reply to Office action of September 28, 2006

PU020045

No fee is believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the additional fee to  
Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,



By: Brian J Cromarty  
Reg. No. L0027  
Phone (609) 734-6804

Patent Operations  
Thomson Licensing Inc.  
P.O. Box 5312  
Princeton, New Jersey 08543-5312  
March 21, 2007